

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /100 W
-----086216 031547Z /41

O R 031510Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2350
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PGOV, IS
SUBJ: POLITICAL PARTIES DISCUSS GOI PEACE PLAN

1. SUMMARY: A SPATE OF POLITICAL PARTY MEETINGS OCCURRED
OVER THE WEEKEND. THE DMC EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF
THE GOI'S PEACE PLAN, THE LIBERALS WERE ALSO SUPPORTIVE,
AND LABOR ATTACKED THE COALITION ON 242. ON THE OTHER
HAND, HERUT'S INFLUENTIAL MK, MOSHE ARENS, CRITICIZED
DAYAN FOR ORIGINATING THE PROPOSAL TO RETURN ALL OF SINAI
TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY. END SUMMARY

2. IN A WEEKEND MARRED BY THE STRIKE-INDUCED ABSENCE
OF NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV BROADCASTS, SEVERAL POLI-
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TICAL PARTIES MET TO TAKE STOCK OF THE PEACE PROCESS
SITUATION. ON MARCH 31 SEVERAL HERUT LEADERS, INCLUDING WEIZMAN,
SHARON, KATZ AND ARENS, SPOKE AT A SYMPOSIUM OF HERUT YOUTH.
WEIZMAN AND SHARON EMPHASIZED HOW CLOSELY THEY WORK TOGETHER,
KATZ CRITICIZED THE BEGIN PEACE PLAN, AND ARENS CRITICIZED
DAYAN. HE BLAMED DAYAN FOR PROPOSING THE RETURN OF THE ENTIRE
SINAI TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SECRET CONTACTS WITH EGYPTIANS

PRIOR TO SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM. ARENS CALLED THE PROPOSAL A MISTAKE. THE CHARGE WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN UP BY DMC MK AKIVA NOF IN A LETTER TO ARENS DEMANDING FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE PROPOSAL AND AN ANSWER TO WHETHER DAYAN HAD MADE IT ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY. ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR ROMANIA ON APRIL 2 DAYAN CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD MET WITH "ARAB POLITICAL FIGURES INCLUDING EGYPTIANS," PRIOR TO SADAT'S VISIT AND ADDED THAT WHATEVER "HE SAID OR DID WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIME MINISTER."

2. ON APRIL 2 THE DMC COUNCIL, AFTER HEARING PARTY CHAIRMAN YADIN DECLARE THE GOVERNMENT'S PEACE PLAN TO BE THE BEST SOLUTION "UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES" FOR REACHING A SETTLEMENT, ADOPTED WITHOUT DISSENT A RESOLUTION ALONG THE SAME LINES. THE RESOLUTION REJECTED THE EGYPTIAN POSITION "IMPOSING PRECONDITIONS," AFFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT EVERYTHING IS OPEN TO NEGOTIATION, SAID THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM REQUIRES A SOLUTION IN THE CONTEXT OF A SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN, AND OPPOSED CREATION OF A THIRD STATE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN.

4. LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS ALSO MET ON APRIL 2. THE PARTY'S CHAIRMAN, FINANCE MINISTER EHRLICH, DENIED THAT BEGIN'S U.S. VISIT WAS A FAILURE BUT ADMITTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WAS FAULTY. HE ALSO DENIED U.S. PRESSURE WAS BEING EXERTED AND SAID HE THINKS THE U.S. IS READY TO ACCEPT ANY ISRAELI PEACE PLAN, ACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA.
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5. ROUNDING OUT THE BUSY WEEKEND, WAS A MEETING OF THE LABOR PARTY BUREAU. IT WILL PROPOSE TO THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE A RESOLUTION SAYING: THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MERIT THE NATION'S TRUST; PEACE EFFORTS HAVE TO BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF 242, ALONG LINES LAID OUT BY ALIGNMENT-LED GOVERNMENTS; AND PALESTINIAN ARABS WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE "JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN STATE."

6. COMMENT: WHAT EMERGES FROM THE SPATE OF MEETINGS WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE ARENS-DAYAN FEUD AND A RALLYING OF SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES BY COALITION PARTNERS. IN ATTACKING DAYAN, ARENS MAINTAINS HIS CAUTIOUS STANCE OF AVOIDING CRITICISM OF BEGIN (OR FOR THAT MATTER, WEIZMAN) WHILE VERBALIZING THE CONTINUING DISCONTENT OF THE HARD-LINE WING OF HERUT WITH THE PEACE PLAN'S SINAI CONCESSIONS. THE DOCILITY OF THE DMC IS SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT POLICY IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING. DMC ACTIVISTS REMAIN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE PARTY MINISTERS WHO ARE INTENT ON STAYING IN THE GOVERNMENT. YADIN CONTINUES TO ASSERT PUBLICLY THAT THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE PARTY'S ADVOCACY OF TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE ON THE WEST BANK

AND THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. AS FOR THE OPPOSITION, ALIGNMENT
HEAD SHIMON PERES PRIVATELY TOLD AN EMBASSY CONTACT THAT HE
EXPECTS NO DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL'S DOMESTIC POLITICS
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS -- AN INTERESTING COMMENTARY ON WHAT SOME
CALLED SERIOUS STIRRINGS OF DISCONTENT FOLLOWING BEGIN'S
WASHINGTON VISIT.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV04450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780143-0867
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780497/aaaadfft.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fcc509b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3088818
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL PARTIES DISCUSS GOI PEACE PLAN
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PGOV, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fcc509b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014